THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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POLLING FOR NYC MAYOR BEGINS

New York City's voters are deciding the outcome of a generational and ideological divide on Tuesday as they choose the next mayor to run the nation's largest city. Zohran Mamdani, who won the Democratic primary earlier this year, faces former Gov Andrew Cuomo, and Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa | P14

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EVENT XPRESS

November 8, 2025

6 pm

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Radico Spirit of Excellence Presents The New Indian Express DEVI AWARDS BENGALURU

Joint INDIA bloc action missing in anti-SIR fight

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WHILE some Opposition-ruled states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have intensified their protest against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the INDIA bloc is yet to come up with a collective strategy on the issue.

The DMK government in Tamil Nadu moved the Supreme Court on Monday challenging the SIR exercise, while West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit the streets on Tuesday. The Kerala government is holding an all-party meeting to discuss the future course of action on the electoral roll revision.

However, the INDIA bloc parties haven't had a joint meeting or discussion ever since the EC announced the SIR for 12 states and Union Territories on October 27, a senior Opposition leader told this paper.

As the principal Opposition party, the onus lies with the Congress, the leader said. "The actions are now limited to the state level and there is no coordination between Opposition parties at the national level. The SIR exercise has already begun in some states and there is hardly any time left," said the leader.

A Congress leader said the party is likely to discuss the matter after the Bihar election. Significantly, the monsoon session of Parliament was a near washout the Congress-led Opposition insisted on a discussion on Bihar's SIR.

Although the TMC was part of the protests against the SIR during Parliament's monsoon session, the party now seems to be in no mood to be together with the INDIA bloc on this. TMC's Lok Sabha MP Saugata Roy said, "TMC will fight this battle alone". Another Opposition leader said the Congress is not taking the initiative as the SIR is not taking place in any Congress-ruled states.

2,100 Sikh pilgrims enter Pak via Wagah

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a rare moment of religious diplomacy amidst curtailed bilateral ties and airspace ban following Operation Sindoor, About 2,100 Indian Sikh devotees crossed into Pakistan on Tuesday through the Attari-Wagah integrated border post to attend the 556th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. This is the first people-to-people contact between the neighbours since the May conflict.

The Pakistan government had issued 2,150 visas for the Sikh pilgrims, but this year India allowed only Indian citizens to participate, excluding Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), a departure from earlier years.

Palwinder Singh, in-charge of the Yatra Vibhag of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), said he was unaware of the reasons behind the decision.

The pilgrims are scheduled to return on November 13 after visiting key historic gur dwaras: Janamasthan in Nankana Sahib, Sri Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal, Sacha Sauda in Farooqabad, and Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur. Upon reaching Lahore, the Sikh pilgrims led by Jathedar Akal Takht Giani Kuldip Singh Gargajj were accorded a warm welcome by Pakistan's Punjab province minister Ramesh Singh Arora and senior officials of the Pakistan Evacuee Trust Board.

Chairman of Pakistan Evacuee Trust Board Dr Sajid Mehmood Chohan, Additional secretary Nasir Mustaq, vice president Pakistan Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Mahesh Singh greeted the jatha.

The Sikh jatha from India being greeted in Pakistan on Tuesday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

8 killed as passenger train rams goods train

Bilaspur: At least eight persons were killed and 16 others injured when a passenger train reportedly jumped a red signal and collided with a goods train from the rear near Bilaspur railway station in Chhattisgarh around 4 pm on Tuesday. Railway officials said that two to three persons are still feared trapped in the wreckage and rescue efforts are on | P12

28 illegal resorts in Kabini, say activists

KARTHIK K K @Mysuru

EVEN as the Mysuru region grapples with a surge in man-animal conflicts, particularly around Kabini backwaters and forest fringes of Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves, at least 28 resorts and commercial establishments are operating illegally within the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) or without no-objection certificates.

These properties, allegedly owned or backed by influential politicians, celebrities and senior government officials, are accused of blatant violations of environmental and wildlife protection laws. Copies of photographs, RTCs, documents and notices sent by departments, available with TNIE, reveal that these resorts have been constructed beyond permissible limits, have encroached government and forest land, lack mandatory NOCs from the forest and irrigation departments, and have not obtained proper town planning or gram panchayat approvals.

The list includes well-known luxury resorts, including government-owned Jungle Lodges and Resorts, and 14 others that are operating in violation of eco-sensitive zone and tiger reserve buffer zone regulations. P7

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4 militants shot dead in Manipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

FOUR members of insurgent group United Kuki National Army (UKNA) were killed in an encounter with security forces in Churachandpur district of Manipur early on Tuesday.

Sources said 17 UKNA rebels were taking shelter at Khanpi village under Henglep subdivision. While four rebels were gunned down, others managed to flee. A search operation in the adjoining areas was in progress when reports last came in.

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